

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5287

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, AFIN, UN

SUBJECT: EROSION OF ACABQ INTEGRITY

REF: STATE 233855

SUMMARY: CONG BUCHANAN AND I CALLED ON SYG TO MAKE POINTS
CONTAINED REFTEL. USYG DAVIDSON, WHO JOINED MTG AT SYG'S REQUEST,
SAID ROOT OF PROBLEM WAS PRESENT UNREPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER OF ACABQ,
WHOSE MEMBER SHIP SHOULD EXPANDED. WE REAFFIRMED IMPORTANT USG
AND CONGRESS PLACE ON STRONG, RESPONSIBLE ACABQ. END SUMMARY.

1. CONG BUCHANAN AND I ACCOMPANIED BY MISOFF REIS, CALLED
ON SYG WALDHEIM TODAY TO DISCUSS CHARGES OF EROSION OF ACABQ
AURHORITY AND IMPROPRIETY OF SECRETARIAT LOBBYING AMONG
UN MEMBERS AGAINST DECISIONS TAKEN ON ADMINISTRATIVE
AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS BY ACABQ, SYG, AND OTHER UN ORGANS.
IMPORTANCE OF ACABQ AS GUARDIAN OF UN'S FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY WAS EMPHASIZED , AND INCIEDNTS OF SECRETARIAT
LOBBYING FOR INCREASE IN APPROPRIATIONS FOR LOS CONFERENCE
AND UNIDO GENERAL CONF WERE CITED AS EXAMPLES OFACTIVITY
WHICH, IF PERMITTED TO CONTINUE, COULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE
AUTHORITY OF BOTH ACABQ AND SYG.
2. USYG DAVIDSON, WHO JOINED MTG AT SYG'S REQUEST, AGREED
THAT UNIDO EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BUDGETARY INDEPENDENCE WERE CAUSE
FOR CONCERN. HE ALSO FOUND SOME FAULT WITH SECRETARIAT

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WITH RESPECT TO INITIAL PREPARATION OF WHAT HE FELF HAD BEEN

INADEQUATE COST ESTIMATES ON LOS CONF, A FAULT HE SAID ACABQ SHARED IN.

3. DAVIDSON SOUGHT TO SHIFT FOCUS OF DISCUSSION TO ALLEGED PROBLEM WITH ACABQ, WHICH HE SAID WAS UNREPRESENTATIVE OF MEMBERSHIP AS A WHOLE (HE ASSERTED 9 OF 13, 10 FO 13 COUNTING HUNGARY, CAME FROM FISCALLY CONSERVATIVE POWERS), AND THERE FORE HAD BEEN AND WOULD BE INCRRESINGLY OVERRIDDEN. IN RESPONSE TO SYG INQUIRY AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE, DAVIDSON SAID THAT NEXT YEAR ACABQ MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE INCREASE BY AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS, INCLUDING ONE EACH FROM LA, AF, AND ASIAN GROUPS. HOWEVER, DAVIDSON SAID THAT SECRETARIAT WOULD TAKE NO INITIATIVE IN THIS REGARD. HE PREDICTED GROUP OF 77 MIGHT EASILY COME UP WITH MORE DRASTIC SCHEMES AND SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE WISE FOR ACABQ SUPPORTERS TO GET IN THE FIELD FIRST WITH REASONABLE PROPOSAL.

4. CONG BUCHANAN REPLIED IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT CONGRESS CONTINUE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ACABQ AS SERIOUS, RESPONSIBLE, AND INFLUENTIAL INSTITUTION WITHIN UN AND THAT IT THEREFORE NOT ONLY SHOULD BE RETAINED BUT STRENGTHENED.

5. IN SUBSEQUENT CALL IN STAVROPOULOS, AMB BENNETT EXPLAINED PER REFTEL THAT IN OUR DISCUSSION OF LOS CONF WITH THE SYG, WE HAD NOT BEEN CONCERNED WITH PERSONALITIES BUT WITH BROADER PROBLEM OF ROLE OF ACABQ AND FIFTH COMITE. STAVROPOULOS TOOK THE POINT. HE, TOO, DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WHAT HE SAW AS THE UNREPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER OF ACABQ; HE NOTED, BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, THAT GROUP OF 77 HAD INEVITABLY REJECTED THE ADVISORY COMITE'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO ELIMINATE CERTAIN HIGHER PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL POSTS BECAUSE OF THEIR INSISTENCE OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

6. COMMENT: I INVITED CONG BUCHANAN TO JOIN ME IN CALL ON SYG FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF HAVING SYG AND STAFF HEAR FROM BUCHANAN, NOT ONLY AS MEMBER OF US DEL HANDLING FIFTH COMITE ITEMS BUT ALSO AS MEMBER HOUSE FOR RELATIONS COMITE, THE SERIOUS VIEW US CONGRESS TAKES ON UN FINANCES. I BELIEVE SYG AND DAVIDSON WERE FURTHER SENSITIZED TO IMPORTANCE US PLACES ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND A STRONG ACABQ WITHIN UN. COMMENTS OF DAVIDSON, STAVROPOULOS, AND SYG ON "UNREPRESENTATIVE" NATURE OF ACABQ PARALLEL THOSE WE HAVE HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF UN MEMBERS, AND ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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FURTHER INDICATION THAT PRESSURE FOR ACABQ EXPANSION LIKELY TO GROW. MISSION IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT SO-CALLED "UNREPRESENTATIVE" CHARACTER OF ACABQ IS ONLY PARTIALLY CAUSE OF PROBLEM SINCE, IN FACT, IT HAS RESULTED TO LARGE DEGREE FROM EXTENSIVE LOBBYING BY SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS TO USE FIFTH COMITE TO OVERTURN ACABQ RECOMMENDATIONS. QUESTION OF SIZE, ROLE, COMPOSITION, ETC., OF ACABQ IN LIGHT OF NEW PROGRAM BUDGET IS MATTER WHICH MUST

BE DEALT WITH IN FUTURE AND ONE ON WHICH MISSION WILL WANT
TO COMMENT SUBSEQUENTLY.
BENNETT

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